

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, North Carolina

August 1st, 1957

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The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of North Carolina met with a committee from the Hospitals Board of Control in regard to the question of further renewal of special limited license to the educationally unqualified graduates of foreign medical schools in the state mental hospitals.

Members of the Board present were Drs. L. R. Doffermyre, President, Joseph J. Combs, Secretary-Treasurer, J. B. Anderson, Thomas G. Thurston and Carl V. Tyner and Mrs. Louise J. McNeill, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; also Mr. John H. Anderson, Attorney for the Board.

The committee from the Hospitals Board of Control present were J. Melville Broughton, Jr., Chairman, Kelly Bennett, Dr. Hates Palmer and John Umstead. Dr. J. W. Murdoch, General Superintendent, Dr. W. A. Sikes, Superintendent of the State Hospital at Raleigh, and Mr. Roy Purser, Business Manager, of the State Hospitals were also present.

The committee came in with a prepared compromise proposal to present to the Board of Medical Examiners with reference to the above matter. A general discussion was held and the president of the Board of Medical Examiners suggested a verbal plan. The Board then went into executive session and the following plan was agreed upon between the Board of Medical Examiners and the committee representing the Hospitals Board of Control:

1. That the special limited licenses now held by physicians employed in the mental institutions of the State from foreign medical schools will be renewed on an annual basis for a period of three years provided such physicians present themselves to a committee of medical educators designated by the Examining Board and the Hospitals Board of Control and provided such committee shall certify to the Examining Board that such physicians have the medical education equivalent to the medical education provided in the medical schools of the United States, and that he be allowed to take the regular medical board examination for licensure in this State, and provided further that upon passing such medical board examination within such three year period, the physician so passing will be granted a license to practice medicine in North Carolina and that the physicians who do not pass such medical board examination will not be granted any type of license to practice medicine in North Carolina. Such physicians who do not qualify for the taking of the medical board examination and who do not take and pass such examination within such three year period will not be granted any further license to practice in this State.

2. That in the future applicants from foreign medical schools for positions on the staffs of our mental institutions will be screened and approved under the same procedure that is used at the present time for such initial screening and approval. That such approved applicants for positions in the mental institutions will be given notice that the limited license granted them by the Board of Medical Examiners will be renewed on a one-year basis for a three-year period of time, provided such applicants shall take all possible steps within reason to qualify themselves to take the regular examination given by the Board of Medical Examiners for licensure in North Carolina; provided further, as in the case of those physicians presently employed in the mental institutions, should an applicant upon being notified to take the medical board examination fail to pass the same, then no renewal of his license to practice will be granted.

3. That during these three years such foreign educated physicians who might be approved will be required at the end of each year and before the limited license is renewed to make a report to the examining board covering all their activities during the preceding year in the field of their experience and training. That a report will also be required concerning such physicians of the Superintendent of the hospital on whose staff the applicant may be serving concerning all of the applicant's activities in his field of experience and training.

4. That if there should arise in the minds of the members of the Examining Board any question as to whether or not a foreign educated physician holding such special limited license is carrying out the above plan of qualification, then and in that event the Board of Examiners will discuss the matter with the General Superintendent of the Hospitals Board of Control and the head of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

(See file for complete interview)

This agreement was submitted to the press.

The meeting was adjourned.

Signed Joseph J. Combs M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer



